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**Environment Department Advises Pilar Yacht Club to
Lift Boil Water Advisory and Resume Normal Operations**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau (NMED-DWB) has advised the Pilar Yacht Club that it is now safe to lift a boil water advisory for the customers served by their water system.

The Pilar Yacht Club, a restaurant and gift shop in Taos County located approximately 15 miles southwest of Taos, was put on a “boil water order” on July 1, 2003 due to bacteriological contamination that exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for *E. coli*. NMED required that the system owner/operator notify all customers served by that system.

Troubleshooting by the DWB, its technical assistance provider New Mexico Rural Water Association, and the water system identified sanitary and regulatory deficiencies that were corrected. In addition, a new chlorinator was installed to maintain adequate water disinfection levels.

The operators of the Pilar Yacht Club water system collected and submitted for laboratory analysis four samples on July 14, 2003. The final results showed no total coliforms or *E. coli* bacteria in the water system and adequate levels of disinfection. After reviewing these findings, the NMED-DWB, in collaboration with the DOH Office of Epidemiology, determined that it was safe to lift the boil water advisory.

Most strains of *E. coli* are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, the presence of *E. coli* in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. The water system was advised to boil water for five minutes before drinking, cooking and dishwashing.

For more information contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314 or Darren Padilla, Hydrologist, NMED at (505) 827-1400 x.1044.

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